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COUNTRY

China

DATE DISTR. 26 March 1948

SUBJECT

Economic Information: Conditions in the

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PLACE ACQUIRED Mishan Area

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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DATE OF INFO As stated

25X1A Mishan Station is an important point on the Hulin Railroad

- According to the information available here, Mishan station appears to be Figan (131-56, 45-34)7. It is approximately midway between Hulin (133-38, 45-59) and Linkou (130-15, 45-17). Mishan (132-00, 45-32), the seat of the hsien government, is eight kilometers southeast of Mishan station. Many of the houses and buildings in this city are of Russian architecture. Mishan has a population of nearly 16,000 Chinese, Koreans, and Soviet citizens.
- Prior to October 1947 the Soviet Army moved approximately 200 Soviet citizens to Mishan in two equal groups. In October around the same number moved to Mishan. The Soviet Army forcibly evicted Chinese residents from the Russiantype houses, in order that the Soviet citizens might occupy them.
- 3. The Soviet citizens now living in Mishan are given food stuffs and supplies by the Soviet Army, and a distribution and rationing system has been established None of the Soviet citizens were employed as of November 1947. The general appearance, clothing, shoes, and the mode of living of the Soviet residents indicate that they are farmers or laborers.
- The motive for this immigration could not be determined, but rumors in Mishan indicate that more Soviet citizens will be moved to the city soon.
- Commodities and foodstuffs are scarce in Mishan and Mishan station. Merchants barter for exchange of cosmodities, since there is little or no use of currency. The seizure of 70 to 90 per cent of the agricultural products and the land distribution policies initiated by the Communist Government have left the people. particularly in the small villages of the area, in an impoverished state. The confiscated agricultural products are transported by the Soviets to Troit-skoye (132-02, 44-50) /?Novo Troitskoye (133-02, 44-06)/. The farming conditions have deteriorated considerably since the inauguration of the Communist land distribution policy. Previously the land was tilled by tengot farmers who received from the landowner fertilizer, horses, carts, cattle and some implements in return for a percentage of the produce. For the past several years no fertilizer or new implements have been available. Horses and carts p_{AVA} been confiscated by the Communist and Soviet forces, and the farmers are unable to till the land. The result of these conditions is that the land is losing like productivity; the agricultural yield per paddy has decreased noticeably. Many of the farmers are moving from the Mishen area to the Halin and Linkou areas, while others have banded together to rob neighboring districts and Communist storehouse.

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